

1                   **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

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3                   The method of processing air prior to

4   separation of such air into gaseous components, the

5   steps that include: first compressing a stream of air

6   and cooling the compressed air, to enable water

7   separation and removal from the stream, to provide a

8   dry stream of air; then further compressing the dry air

9   stream and cooling the compressed dry air stream to

10   enable removal of contained remanent water; then

11   expanding the cooled air stream in an expansion stage

12   which extracts work from the expanding stream; then

13   passing the expanded air stream to a separator

14   operating to remove water from the stream, thereby

15   producing dry air passed to a component gas separation

16   stage or stages.